## FRANCE.

THE SERVICE BOOKS OF THE FRENCH WORKMEN SPEECH OF THE EMPEROR TO THE COUN-OIL OF STATE-PUBLIC MEETINGS-THE DE-CLINE OF NAPOLEONISM-GREAT SALES OF PICTURES-SALE OF BERRYER'S AND ROS-SINI'S EFFECTS.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.] PARIS, March 26 .- Among the signs of progress I lately mentioned the proposition submitted by Government to the Council of State for that body to shape into a bill to be presented to the Legislature. abolishing the law of livrets. The law applies only to mechanics and persons in domestic service, and submits those two very large classes to an exceptional condition, which is in flattest contradiction with the constantly proclaimed principle of the "Equality before the Law" of all French citizens. It dates from 1854, but was anticipated in its worst provisions by an Imperial decree of the preceding year. The livret is a sort of passport, with which the workman must provide himself, furnished by the authorities, countersigned by the police, and, among other inconveniences, subjecting him effectively to the surveillance of the police. The abolition of this law then surely is a sign of liberal progress. But Napoleon's manner of progressing toward liberty is curionsly like his first manner of suppressing it. His procedure on Tuesday offers a striking example of his holding fast to the personal principle while recognizing the movement of things about him-again putting one in mind of that passenger who would come down from the maintop by two back stays. I think I have already told the sad story. The poor man wanted to come down, and started with arms

prone downward. They took up that man lifeless. On Tuesday the Emperor assembled the Council of State in the palace, and made a speech, in which he told that deliberative body (whose members hold by his appointment) that he was of opinion they should approve his government's proposition. It was quite like a Lit de Justice under the old unconstitutional monarchy of the Bourbons. It is but fair to state that after he had thus expressed his opinion, Coun cilors were permitted to utter their's, and that three of them presumed respectfully to differ from him. But the remark with which Minister Rouher's subeditor of the Journal Officiel follows the report of the Imperial utterance of good pleasure provokes the melancholy grin: "After a thorough discussion the Council of State emitted the opinion that the obligatory quality of workmen's herets should be annulled.

and legs clinging right and left to the two ropes

where they were close together, and so slid along

well enough for a while: then, with fatal, fast-grow-

ing divergence, one leg going this way and the other

that, he lost his head and hold, and fell swift and

The speech itself will have reached you before this letter, but it is remarkable on more than one account, and I will venture a quotation or two as a convenient text for merited comment. Observe that the law as it stands is of the speaker's own making-for in 1854 the acceptance of an Imperial idea by Ministers, the shaping of it into a bill by the Council of State, and the sanctioning of it as a law by the silent and faithful Legislature, were simply three formal stages of a predestinate process. All hands were in the maintop together then, and acted as though the wind was never going to change, and they never expected to come down.

"The suppression of the Livrets," says our reform erator, "which is first of all requisite as a moral satisfaction (natural right), in order to emancipate the working class from vexatious formalities, will complete the series of measures that place (restore them to their place) them on a common legal level (with the rest of the population of France), and elevate them in their own eyes." For fourteen years, then, His Majesty hath denied them moral satisfaction, deprived them of their common right, and sub-

jected them to degradation by class legislation! But more remarkable than this tardy confession of injustice, are the general spirit and special aim of the piece spoken of by His Majesty. Characteristic. the Napoleonic idea of a personal imperial government, as the one best suited to France-and himself and the philosophical idea of social reform, each of which, as time and occa sion called, he has repudiated or left in abeyance-he here again, with clever blending of caution and boldness, appears as a confessor of Socialism before a body of men bigoted against that heresy. Partaking of the nature both of warning and command to his immediate hearers, his speech, for this quality of it, is a profession of faith, a promise and appeal addressed to the more thoughtful and more vital, younger portion of the nation. It is in particular and just at this time, two months before the elections, addressed to the electors of the working classes. It is also a bi-faced apology to timid Conservatives for having permitted the vulgar to take any liberties at all, and to fimid Liberals for permitting them to take so few, by the June law on public meetings. In its special aim it is an electioneering speech-buncombe pure and simple-that is, as pure and as simple in its attributes as essential buncombe can be. The object is, by octroying a right as though it were a privilege, to balance, by this generous, popular concession, further restriction of the popular concession of right of public meetings. Three of these have been closed by assisting police officers this week; while carefully selected and garbled passages from the discourse of the most foolish and most violent speeches at all of them, are dili gently circulated, along with accompanying understrokes of editorial emphasis, by the Government press. This, too, is done with special reference to the May elections, the purpose being to alarm the timid beurgeoisie and peasant property-holders into

faithful voting for Government caudidates. These meetings are a sort of debating clubs. The theme of discussion, which by the terror of the law must be neither religious nor political, is submitted to and admitted by the Prefect of Police, three days beforehand. But the theme may be by the law, and almost always is, politico-economical-social. The line of distinction is necessarily shadowy, undefinable and arbitrarily drawn by the Assistant Police Commissary, when and where his fancy takes him, during the discussion. The audiences, so far as I have seen and otherwise learn, are composed in major part of workingmen, often accompanied with their wivesrather excitable, but on the whole good listeners. The speakers are not all so good : few of them polished rhetoricians, some of them very violent ones, some, though not a large enough proportion of them sensible, serious men. With very rare exceptions, educated and prominent men of the Liberal party have taken no active share in these meetings. The reason they give for their abstention, though bardly satisfactory to an English reformer, or an old-style American Abelitionist-to a man like Ernest Jones, or like carnest Wendell Philipps-has a French validity of which modern political agitators in the United States or Great Britain are slow to comprehead, because they never feel the force. A French democrat whom I ventured to questioningly reproach for not making use of such means as this law gave him, with all its restrictions, of furthering the cause he has at heart, replied: "The law is a mouse-trap baited to catch us. It is not only in its letter arbitrariness legalized, but the interpretation and application of it are arbitrary, and in the hands of our

Politics and religion being forbidden themes, most of the speakers intentionally, the rest involuntarily, are constantly trenching on them. Hostile allusions to Government are invariably relished by the audifrequently alluded to and in as little favor; and God. whose grace Napoleon reigns—so His Majesty says—suffers for that patronage and is treated with as little courtesy as his protege. This is bad; but this assimilation of God and the coup d'etat is not an original blasphemy with those who repudiate the authority of both, nor are they the first who confounded the ence; the Church, being Government's partner, is as

Church of Christ with the Second Empire. But what is much more exploited by the Government press than allusive or direct attacks upon religion or the actual regime, are the choicely excerpted phrases of the more foolish and violent half dozen speakers, who appear in turn at all the meetings and profess Communist doctrines, admiration for Marat, or like extravagance. These, extracted from the report of the Prefect's zealous stenograph, wrenched from their context like a carious tooth, their foul and bloody horror enhanced by the setting the officious editors give them, are held aloft at the head of their columns, by these semi-official organ-grinders, as faithful and frightful sample ends of all the jaw of the public meetings. Lo, ye property holders, and all ye who have respectable heads on your shoulders! would ye conserve your dry goods, and fields, and six per cent, your pockets and your cephalic bulbs ? Vote for the Government candidates! Else it will be '98 come again! Horrors of St. Domingo and Horace Greeley, dyed red! Do you imagine that I exaggerate? Read, for your sins, the Constitutionnel and Le Pays, and be sadly pursuaded that my compressed report of their violences is less distorted from the truth than their reports of the coarser but not greater extravagances of a few not more foolish orators in the popular public meetings of Paris.

There are yet two other varieties of meetings, made possible by last year's legislation, which your reporter has to write about, but that must be for another letter. Only, here as well as anywhere, let me note that all four varieties of public meetings contribute largely proofs of that proposition, stated in former letters. Napoleonism-especially, that is, the old legendary Napoleonism, that grew rank from the ruins of the first empire, and flourished ever more and more up to 1848, tended and watered by the opposition of all shades under the Elder Bourbons, and side-grafted as it were on the younger branch of Louis Philippe himself-is in its decadence. References to the glories of the Imperial wars meet no response; condemnatory allusions to their terrible waste and cost-"the fields of Germany manured with French corpses !"-do

The idol is broken. The blindly-faithful are old and dying out. The spirit of the age has reached France. Skepticism, rationalism, realism have passed from the State religion and God on to the national religion and [the First] Napoleon I. The generation of hero worshipers gives place to the new generation of believers in Man. The French are partially convalescing from their chronic disease of Glorie, and beginning to feel that they suffered bitterly, more than they profited, by those twenty years of imperial phlebotomy. Another patent cause, or rather occasion, of the decline and fall of Napoleonism presents itself in the fact that the high, however transient, luck of the family in its third dynastic representative, since 1852, has, if I may so express myself (and I should say I may), pricked the bladder of commiseration that swelled with windy sentiment over the desolate disaster of the first of the name. The coup d'état abolished, in a sort, St. Helena. As a Milesian might say, the actual imperial throne, in so far as it is supported by sentiment, rests on the foundations

But in this very visible and real decline of Napo eonism-of the Legendary, Rev. S. C. Abbott estible Sapoleonism-your reporter has less to do with explanations than record of its phenomena. These are visible everywhere, revealed in lectures, speeches, books, newspapers, stage plays, as bytthe bookseller's sales and in the manifestations of applausive audiences. A significant, and on other accounts remarkable, one of these is the new play-what we should call a tragedy-the Patrie, by Victorien Sardou, honorably nicknamed since this greatest and most legitimate of his many stage triumphs, "Victorien the Victorious." Two days' manuscript is already too long, and time between this and posting hour too short, that I should write now the two or three paragraphs-not in analysis or criticism o this notable drama and its reception by the publicout about it. Very imperfect in all ways, but possibly not without interest, even so far away from the Porte St. Martin as your side of the water, let me post them next week.

Our grandest sale of pictures this season, not nearly as fertile as the last in great sales, has been that of the choice collection of M. Delessert, some time Prefect of Police, under Louis Philippe, and eminent amateurs, connoisseurs, and shrewd purchasers of fine arts. Sentimental Entussymussy, and sham Ruskinesque dissertation about pictures that the reader has not seen, are equally dull and useless. note the sale for the humbler sake of a comparison of prices, illustrating the curious growth in commercial value of good pictures. Among other beautiful Buvasses were: a Marine, by Backhuyser, knocked lown at 18,200 francs, bought in 1801 for 500 francs; A Marine, by Van der Welde, bought at the same time for 800, sold for 15,500; a Wynants landscape, bought for 2,500, sold for 32,500; the Virgin and Child, a real Raphael, bought at the Aguado sale, in 1843, for 27,300, sold for 150,000 francs. The moral of this tale, of which I have unfolded only these three or four of its many comparative kinks, is, that money spent on really good pictures is safely invested. A similar comparison of the prices which pictures of intrinsic worth have brought at the sales of good collections any time the last few years, with those prices that their last owners bought them, offers constant confirmation of the moral.

The sale of Berryer's effects did not begin so briliantly, but ended fairly well. There was little of worth in the way of art. The unique copy of Bossuet orations, presented to him by the compositors as the only fee he would accept for his defense of them before the tribunals, was sold for a little over 6,000 francs. Its material cost, counting their willing labor of love, was more than that. When they brought it to him, he noticed the legible beauty of its extra large type, and was much touched to learn that his clients had been delicately thoughtful in that respect of his fading eyesight. Thanking them, he said: "I shall not live long to enjoy the reading of it, my friends, but it will be a precious legacy to my grandson." It was bid off by a stranger, the fam-

The Rossini sale is of a week or so older date. brought out no enthusiasm, but some queer revelations. Among the rest, a surprisingly low tariff for complimentary snuff-boxes presented by royal and other high parties. It seems that they are intrinsically worth, on an average, about \$25, gold. The article that excited most interest, and brought nearly the highest price, was an ivory-the ivery-what shall I call it !-instrument. Let us say, paraphrastically, a so-to-speak anti-costive irrigator. It was an old and frequent subject of joke with the waggish old composer, and of all sorts of legends among his acquaintance. I believe his disconsolate widow-a very slightly admired person-had the grace to bid it in. The famous Pillet-Will Mass, which she disconsolately sold to Strakosch, and which that gentleman and the director of the Italians mean to make a mint of money out of, out of profound artistic respect for Rossini, is already leading to a curious lawsuit. It has been published. A lady who bought it, was having it executed, the other evening, at her own house, by united amateur performers. In the midst of the entertainment comes in an officer of the law, serving upon her a formal legal notice from the proprietors of the mass to stop performance, under pains and penalties incurred by her violation of their right of property in all the audible quality of the mass. The great dead composer surely is not to be blamed for this commercial greed of his widow and her co-worshipers of his profitable fame.

THE CUBAN REVOLUTION.

THE SUGAR INTEREST-SLAVE LABOR. IFROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.] HAVANA, March 21 .- There is a common delusion that Cuba is exceedingly rich. Spain has instituted this mistake for her own purposes, and the crowd of strange officials she has been accustomed to quarter upon the island have, of course, found it rich enough to sustain her demands and their own. But if a man gets robbed of all he earns, and has to live upon what he owes, it is not saying he is prosperous. Cuba is naturally of great value. You know its sugar crop is large, yet if we were to describe it as being in a state of splendid misery, and hint that its revenues are a kind of gambling with money and resources, that its sugar-cane culture and industry are a sort of gambling with nature, that its slave system is a species of gambling with souls and bodies, and that its ruling doctrine of economy and politics gambles with the truth, the general story would be about told. The island has been impoverished to keep labor cheap. Spain, Cuba, the officials and the planters, have all borne down upon the slave, and have been supported by him, scarcely suspecting that they were all the poorer for his poverty. A house built upon sugar and molasses, with the sinews and bones of slaves, is a little worse than one built upon the sand. Slave labor and its superstructure, Spanish oppression, have, in fact, been cheating

This will be best shown by borrowing figures. Sugar being the mother industry of the island, its statistics will give the type of a general condition of things. It is most significant, then, that the sugar culture in Cuba is about the poorest in the world. Here is a comparative statement of the fact, showing the production of sugar per caballeria of land:

the planter out of his crops.

In Barbadoes and English Guiana..... | Darbauces and English Guiana | 9,692 |
In Reunion | 7,425 |
In Jamaica and Bengal | 6,755 |
In France (beet-root sugar) | 2,592 |
Andalusia | 2,492 |
Cuba | 9,100

This table was made out by Mr. Poey, one of the abless and richest -6 the Cuhan nlanters. Commenting upon it he says, that the 2,109 arrobas creamed to the island ought to be reduced 30 per cent of miel on molasses, [so that the production, rigorously estimated, does not exceed 1,790 arrobas to the cabal leria. Don Carlos Revello estimates that the average product of Cuban ingenies or sugar-mills is 1,887 boxes of sugar of 17 arrobas, and that each one of them has not less than 42.34 caballerias of ground, the value of which is at least \$63,510. Considering this small production for so great an extent of farm, Mr. Poey urges a more intense cultivation of the soil, believing that the de cadence of the Cuban crop is owing, in great part, to the unproductiveness of capital invested in lands of which the planter has no need. According to statistics of 1861, each ingenio had 116 laborers; " and it is a fact, notwithstanding," says Mr. Poey, "that in many of them 74 hands, from 12 to 70 years of age. would have sufficed for their product of 1,887 boxes. It results, then, that there is an excess of labor of 71 hands for each of these ingenios, which, if valued at \$800 for each hand, would represent a barren capital of \$50,800. In adopting the cultivation intensiro, Mr. Poey argues that less land will be employed to little purpose, and that as the distances from various points of labor on the plantation will be diminished, there will be an economy of negroes, oxen, and carts which does not exist to-day. But the planter disdains these arguments, and continues increasing the prices of all he consumes by the way in which he squanders labor and means.

It is calculated that the plantations of the island only yield four per cent for all the capital represented in them. Here is a fact that ought to astonish those who, to this day, are inclined to believe that the planter, if he is not in war, is rolling in wealth. "From so poor a product," says our island publicist, "must be deducted insurances for fire, which are so frequent in cane plantations, for hurricanes, which are to be expected once in 25 years, and for other risks to which slaves and animals are exposed: he refers in part to epidemics. "When," he continnes, "it is considered that from what remains of so mean a profit the proprietors must subsist, and frequently pay very high interests which are never quite extinguished-how qualify as other than ruinous, in a general respect, an industry so poorly compensated f" Other facts emphasize this question. The annual production of each negro does not exceed 13 boxes of sugar, and as his value thus is not more than \$100 63, or \$8 47 per month, it is not possible that it can suffice to cover the engagements and necessities of those who proportion their calculations to the absurd belief that the ingenios are fountains of inexhaustible wealth. Imagine what the slave suffers in degradation, or, practically speaking, how labor is cheapened and cheated, in this ruinous delusion of the planter. The poor profit swallowed up in debt indicates what kind of fare is allowed the negroes, and I suppose the 4 per cent which must cover subsistence, interests, insurances, engagements, is in good part extracted out of their longevity.

The business done by the plantations upon an investment which Mr. Poey valued at \$530,000,000 no doubt seems great and prosperous. Innumerable debts have been born of this error, and immense premiums for money. The grander the scale upon which the sugar interest maintains or fancies itself, the greater the blunder and the ruin. It is not to be ignored that in 1856 the high prices tripled the profits of the plantations; but how often can the planter count upon such golden windfalls ? To illustrate more thoroughly his diffiulties, let me again revert to the statistics of Mr. Carlos Rebello. The cost of an ingenio, with the average production of 1,889 boxes of sugar, is estimated as follows:

9	Mayes, 142, at \$800	3,000 3,000 9,999
	Total cost	4,919

The ordinary expenses of a plantation are \$18,250; those extraordinary, \$7,321. The loss of slave life is 2i per cent yearly, even taking into account births. The bulk of slave supplies in jerked beef and codfish is act down at \$1,587, and what else the negro costs in this way or any other is very little. The account of

to fina	entries and expenses in a year is as follows:
33,966 3,770 68	For 1.887 boxes at \$18. For 337 hhds, molasses at \$10. For four good oxen at \$17.
837,804	A Utiliana a construction and a
7,321 24,742	Ordinary, at \$0.67 per box. Extraordinary, at \$1.07. Interest on whole cupital, 0 per cent. Commission of 5 per cent on \$37,804, for an
1,890	unul services of the master
\$52,203 \$7,804	Total. Deduct entries
\$13,401	Annual loss equal to 4.87 per cent of capital.

For interest on capital of \$274,919..\$24,742 91 per cent Less, for losses suffered............ 13,401 4.87 per cent Definitive income.........\$11,341 4.13 per cent Hence the planter is a clear loser. M. Francisco de Armas, in a book of singular value upon Cuban Slavery, comments upon the figures of Poey and Rebello, and shows that the practical costs of the slavesystem of planting are even greater than these gentlemen have reckoned. As proving the decline of the sngar industry, he dwells upon the fact that plantations which cost at least \$274,919, are bought with \$40,000 or \$50,000 of ready money, the rest to be paid in installments of \$30,000 or \$40,000. Even plantations bought on these terms bring ruin rather than riches to those who acquire them. Some pay with punctuality the installments; but more sink in debt. With the authority of Humboidt Mr. Armas contests the statement of his countryman that the annual loss of slaves in a plantation of 142 negroes is as low as 21 per cent. A haciendado has assured him that even the figures of Humboldt were low, and that the actual loss is from 4 to 5 per cent, which I | beyond there and to the west of Havana is the principal

NEW-YORK, SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 1869.-TRIPLE SHEET. take to be the truth. The calculations of the slaveholding Mr. Poey furnish Mr. Armas with the basis of an unanswerable argument against the poverty and crime of Slavery, and of course he makes good use of the shameful fact that in an ingenio of \$275,000 the cost for yearly aliment not only of the 143 slaves, but of other employés, is \$1,587-so that each slave is fed daily at an expense of three cents or less. It used to be an opinion in England respecting America that the average life of a laboring slave was not more than eight years; and, although Mr. Armas conceives this to be an exaggeration, it is not so bad as that contained in the statement of his slave-owning neighbor. Again Mr. Armas corrects Mr. Poey by saying that no haciendado, simply by the yield of his plantation, obtains money at 9 per cent a year. The truth is, he pays 19 per cent if extraordinary motives do not intervene to The Cuban author, upon whose opinion I have just

drawn, appears to believe that there is something more necessary to be cultivated in Cuba than the sugar crop, and that is the crop of men. He proves that Slavery makes labor torpid and barren, and that those who rob it in Cuba are very great spendthrifts. All the stupidity of the system works itself into the brains of the planter, and as the slave never learns neither does the master. Freedom and the stimulus wages only can supply wanting. It was once recommended, and I believe by the Cuban to whom I refer, that the planters should try the experiment of giving a small premium or monthly sum of money to their slaves, but nobody ever listened to that suggestion, and the sugar crop is as little rewarded for growing as the slave is for his labor, and both are unencouraged and poor. There is such a thing, then, as cultivating labor, and what makes the man grow will make the cane grow-that is to say, liberty of work.

THE SITUATION AS IT APPEARS IN WASH-INGTON. [FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 5. The Revolution began on the 10th of October last. Carlos Manuel Cespedes—a man whose name is doubties destined to live in history with that of Washington, as the "Father of his Country"-supported by a force of but one hundred and twenty awan men, pronounced in favor of a Republic, issuing at Bayamo, the place of his residence, an address to his countrymen and the world, which, for vigor of statement and dignity of defense for the act he had taken, will deservedly stand in the foremost rank of State papers. The opportune character of this act is shown by the undisputed fact that, within a week, Gen. Cespedes found himself at the head of 15,000 men, and the recognized chief of a Provisional Patriot Government. It is a fact quite generally known, that the movement thus auspiously begun was not the result of sudden impulse nor of hasty conception. It had been long and carefully planned. Twelve months ago, several of the leading patriot commanders were in this city, and consultations were freely had with public men whose names it will not be wise at this time to give. They were assured of our sympathy, and, if possible, cordial cooperation in their struggle against a power whose history on these continents has always been in antagonism to our own, and whose hostility to our national existence was quite marked during the recent progress of our momentous civil war. It is understood that at the time the Cuban leaders visited this city, the 22d of February last, was the date fixed for the beginning of their movement. Spain itself being in revolutionary throes, the opportunity of an earlier and probably successful blow was not overlooked or lost. Six months have nearly passed since the signal was given, and the Republic of Cuba appears here to ask for recognition. What has it done to entitle it to interna-

Bayamo, the starting place of the Revolution, now in ruins, is in the extreme Eastern portion of the island. Cuba has an area of \$7,287 square miles. Thus, it is nearly as large as England, and, with a more fecond soil and zing prolificuess, it could easily support 20,000,000 of inhabitants. Its geographical and commercial position are unequaled. The present population of the island is about 1,400,000, of whom about 1,000,000 are native Cubans, white or colored. Of the remaining 400,000, there may be 125,000 Spaniards, troops, employes of the Government, carpet bag" adventurers, &c.; the enslaved Africans, who have been brought there in despite of efforts to suppress the slave trade. A few thousand residents are probably citizens of the United States, or of European States, engaged in business. Of the inhabitants of Cuba there are not then 200,000 persons who are either friendly or indifferent to the Spanish rule and among these not one single born Cuban. The remaining portion of the people are all bitterly hostile to has continuance, and are everywhere ready to show that hostility as opportunity oriers. With the daily and un-doubted evidences of this important fact, in the shape of

tional consideration !

news from Havana that appears in our papers, nearly all of which is filtered through the Spanish censorship, there is little need to cite facts or enter into an argument to

prove the unanimity of the Cubans. The best proof however is found in the steady progress of the Revolution itself. Since its inception it has re-ceived no one serious defeat, but on the contrary has daily enlarged its active boundaries and more seriously imperiled the Spanish rule. The Provisional Government of Cuba is at this moment master of at least three-fifths of the entire area of the Island; it commands all the interior lines of communication within this Revolutionized territory; it threatens the control of the Spaniards over the remaining two-fifths; it has confined the troops operating against them chiefly to the sea-board and to the walls of a few principal towns; it has an organized semi-military Government whose authority is readily and scriously re spected by the people; it has to-day an army of over 40,000 men in the field, and could earily double that number if in possession of arms and proper equipments. So much the Revolution has practically accomplished. It has in reality done much more, for from the outset it has established the policy of Emancipation and full enfranch-ment of all citizens as its purpose. The moral value of this unqualified position has been immense. There is another notable feature in the success so far achieved. It is that it has been gained by the almost unaided exertions of the Cubans themselves. In spite of all reports, there has been but very slight ald given from the outside, either from our shores or other of the neighboring American States. A few small cargoes of arms have been run in, but even these are of recent date. Another point is, that from the outset the movement has been regular and orderly, carried forward under or ganized direction, and with a definite policy to guide. The Provisional Government, of which Cospedes is the known chief, has been everywhere recognized by the Cubans. Whatever differences and jealousies may have existed, and it is presumable there have been such, they have never been allowed to impede the patriotic work. At the present moment the entire Eastern Department, with the exception of the seaports, and two or three interior places of importance, like Puerto Principe, are controlled by the Republicans. About one-third of the Western Depart-ment is also really held by them, the Spanish forces being confined to the Cinco Villas (five towns) of Remedios Villa-Clara, Cienfuegos, Sagua la Grande, and Trinidad. According to authentic information received here, the Patriot forces are distributed about as follows: Ir. the Bayamo and Mayari section (the last named place is now the seat of the Provisional Government), Gen. Cespedes has under his own control and that of his imdiate second-in-command, Major-Gen. Donato del Marmol, about 12,000 men. This force could easily be doubled or trebled if arms were attainable. In the upper portion of the "Oriental" Department Quesada is operating with about 14,000 men, of whom one and the larger column in the neighborhood of Puerto Principe, under the immediate direction of Quesada, is quite well equipped. In the Cinco Villas district the patriots have a force of about 15,080 men, a considerable portion of which is tolerably well armed. Every week makes a favorable difference in the armament. In the last named region one of the principal Generals is Puello, a

against the Spaniards in 1861-'62. The military policy pursued by the patriots has been one quite well adapted to their situation. The Eastern Department is traversed by the Sierra de Cobra, a lofty range of mountains, which afford admirable defensive opportunity. The "Jurisdictions" in which the revolution began are the most sparsely settled portions of the Island. They are also the most mountainous. The chief product of the Bayamo section is coffee. The vicinity of Puerto Principe and Cinco Villas is the sugar growing district, while

Dominican mulatto, who fought with considerable credit

tobacco region. The southern side of the Cinco Villas district has an extensive swamp region, which affords almost as admirable base for the partisan policy of the patriots as does the region of the Sienas. With the imperfect arms and equipment of the Patriot forces, it became necessary from the onset to avoid as much as possible too great a risk in collision with the Spanish troops. At the beginning the neighborhood risings seized and disarmed the rural police and Spanish militia, occupied the mountain passes and other stratagetic positions, and then miting into larger bodies, and acting under more definite military direction, drove the Spaniards from all the interior points, compelling them within a short time to remain up in their chief posts and seaports, so closely too, that it has been almost impossible for them, at many points, to obtain forage without constant engagements and losses. In brief, the Patriot policy has een to worry and wear the Spaniards out, confident that every march impeded without serious conflict; every day's delay has been gain to their cause. The Cubans here claim most emphatically, that the Spanish accounts of the losses suffered on either side are utter misrepre sentations. They do not claim any great or striking victories so far, their circumstances have not allowed them to make the necessary efforts to achieve such, but they declare that in all the chief encounters that have occurred so far they have suffered no defeat, (which fact s in their situation a positive gain), but at the worst, only drawn battles, though in general they, (the Patriots), have held the field. The Patriot debit and credit account of actual battles will be given the American public in a short time. That their military policy has been sagacions and successful, is shown by facts already given and from results achieved, but much more by the evidence we have of Spanish desperation and of the present position of their forces. The atroclous acts of the volunteers have quickened the

Cuban hosfility and united the people, so that it is now positively affirmed that there is not known to be one native Cuban, white or colored, indifferent even, let alone hostile, to the revolution. Of course there are many who dare not openly avow their feelings, but the Spaniards acknowledge, in acts and words, that they know all are their enemies. When the revolution begun, there were about 10,000 regulars in the Island. The armed police, civic and rural, and the militia, increased this force to about 22,000 men. Since then about 15,000 troops have been sent from old Spain, making the regular army 25,000. The volunteers, police, &c., increased this force, by 25,000 more; but a large proportion of the new troops, as well of the volunteers are raw recruits, young and untrained men. Recent letters from well-informed sources declare that at least 10,000 of the Spainards have been placed hors du combat since the struggle began—chiefly by the climate and the hardships of campaigning. These allies of the Republicans will not decrease in value as the sea son advances. This has always been regarded as a prime element in Cuban strategy. The volunteers are recruited from the Government [employés, the smaller shopkeepers, and traders, laborers and convicts-in almost every respect the lowest portions of the white population. They are utterly brutalized, as their recent conduct in Havana has shown. Accounts of atrocious outrages committed by them have recently been received by the Republican Envoy. Among one of the most atroclous stories is that of a lady and six children brutally murdered and mutilated by by these butchers, near Mayajugus. The victims were the family of a patriot of local prominence who had been captured. The volunteers came to the plantation and induced the wife to start with the children in their company, under pretense of being taken to their husband and father. They were murdered within a short distance of the plantation, under circumstances of fearful brutality. This, though a more startling one, is by no means an isolated case. In fact the Spanish policy is framed as usual, on their own bloody traditions. They are in their governmental capacity a nation of Bourbons, neither learning nor unlearning anything. The Republican Gen eral-in-chief has been compelled, by the conduct of the Spainards, to announce his intention to resort to reprisals. One of the strongest arguments urged here in behalf of their recognition of independence and belligerent rights is that it will in a great degree compel the cessation of the inhuman war mangurated under Capt. Gen. Dulce's orders. A number of American citiz have been arrested by the Spanish authorities. At the present time the son and brother of two of the most respected and wealthy residents of Havans, naturalized citizens of the United States, lying in prison by Gen. Dulce's order, is in this city urging action on the part of their Government. Complaint, properly authenticated, of these affairs was made at the State Department on gentleman by whom the complaint was lodged, panied by his counsel, Gen. Muzzey, laid the matter before Mr. Hunter, and was consoled with the remarkably cool remark, "that these things must be expected. We often arrested British subjects in the South during our civil war without much warrant or reason therefor." It is to be hoped that the reign of Sewardism is over, and that Mr. Hunter reign of Sewardism is over, and that Mr. Hunter as well as Captain General Dulce will be taught that no one shall meddle with an American citizen, nor any officer of the Government be indifferent thereto, with impunity. The case referred to will, it is understood, be rought before the House at an early day. The latest proclamation of Dulce, relating to the treatment of persons and vessels carrying arms, &c., to the "rebels, and captured in the act, is exciting great interest here; and if the English version be a correct rendering of the text, he has certainly overstepped the limits of International law. An original copy is awaited with some anxiety. There can be no loubt of the unfriendly spirit of the Spaniards toward us, though we have scrupulously fulfilled every obligation our own neutrality and international law imposed. Inder the late administration, stringent orders were issued to prevent the departure of any filibustering expeditions, &c. These instructions have been reissued, it is understood, both by the State and Treasury Departments. Nothing is more certain than that a rigid persuance of the policy indicated by Domingo Dulce as the one he intends to follow, will bring on a collision with the United States, and as it seems most likely, with Great Britain also. The threatened loss of the "Ever-Faithful Isle" seems likely to so madden the Spanlard that he will lose all discretion. There are some shrewd observers in Cuba, and here, too, for that matter, that believe that other European Governments are backing Spain. This idea is founded on the known jenlousy and hestility of Louis Napoleon to this country. It is therefore supposed by some that he is, in spite of the Montpensier muddle there, backing Spain with means to realst the Cuban Revolution. Putting this aside, as one of the speculations in evitable in such affairs, it is more than certain that the Spanlards will resist in Cuba until the last moment. The great need of the patriots is arms, especially artil-

ery. They do not need men. These can be had in suffcient numbers. The negroes are flocking to the Republican lines just as fast as possible. Cespedes could put 40,000 men of color in the field at once if he had arms. few capable officers, especially artillerists, are needed. So far the patriots have had little aid of that kind, nearly all their prominent leaders were planters or lawyers Quesada being the only one having a thorough military training and reputation. He is a man of the most daring courage, honest and capable as a soldier, and true as a He held in the Mexican army the same patriot. The now holds in Cuba, that of Major-rank he now holds in Cuba, that of Major-General. Denato del 'Marmol, who rose with Cospedes, has shown considerable military ability, and will be, it is supposed, commissioned as General Commanding; Cespedes, who now holds that position, being placed at the head of the Government as President by the Provisional Congress which has been called, and s now probably in session at Mayari. Late and direct advices from Cospedes stated that the Congress would soon assemble thereafter. Among the Patriot forces there are about 500 Dominicans, most of them acting as subaltern officers. There are a few Mexicans, not probably a score in all, and about as many more of other nationalities. These facts show how spontaneous the revolution is, and with how much carnestness the Cubaus have antered into the struggle.

The blockade established by the Spaniards, and the want of artillery, are to-day chief obstacles in the way of almost immediate success. With artillery, the patriots could at once drive the Spanish troops out of such places as Puerto Principe, and also hold some important seaports like Nuevitas and Trinidad, from which they could

make active resistance to naval movements, and also have a better chance to receive supplies.

There is every probability that they will soon be in a position to accomplish these things, and in the meanwhile are industriously at work replacing the Spanish administration with that of the Republic, and are building up their civil government coextensively with military and territorial occupancy. and thereforal occupancy.

It will be seen that the Cubans have already won respectful consideration at our hands, and that every day strengthens their claim to the demand now made for that recognition on our part, which is alone needed to complete the work of independence and establish firmly the Republic of Cuba as a power among the nations.

THE SHERIFF'S FEES.

OF \$200,000—THE BILL BEFORE THE LEGIS-

PRICE FOUR CENTS.

LATURE. A bill was yesterday passed by the Assembly o increase the fees of the Sheriff of the City of New York. Its necessity is based on the statement of Mr. O' Brien, the present incumbent, that the office yielded him

last year only \$3,500. This extraordinary statement as to the emoluments of the Shrievalty has been read with sur prise by every citizen who has but the slightest idea of this department, and the amount supposed to be realized by the Sheriff, while every man really acquainted with it—and there are at least 500 lawyers in New-York who have throughout the year business transactions with the Sheriff's office-regards the assertion of only \$3,500 being realized by Sheriff O'Brien for the past year, as not only false, but a stupid absurdity. Mr. O'Brien's two immediate predecessors, Messre Kelly and Lynch-the former of whom served two terms one before and the other after Lynch-both retired from

the office wealthy men. It is said that Mr. Kelly, after his first term, was wealthy enough to build a number of brown-stone houses up-town, and Lynch retired from the office worth some \$150,000. Sheriff Kelly retired from his second term worth \$400,000. Neither of these officials ever dreamt of going to the Legislature for a bill to increase their fees, being too well satisfied with the fees they were receiving. Nor is it pretended that although they charged enormously over the proper statutable fees, O'Brien charges less. On the contrary, the concurrent testimony of the members of the legal profession who have had business to transact with the Sheriff's office for nore than ten years past, is that O'Brien's fees, in every case, are far in excess of either Kelly or Lynch. In considering the subject there are two branches of

rascality to be exposed: the enormity of the overcharges in the fees regulated by the Revised Code, and the creation of offices by the Sheriff not warranted by law. But let us first glance at some few of the sources of Sheriff O'Brien's present income, and then judge whether it night to satisfy him as it is.

THE LUDLOW-ST. PRISON.

On the assumption of office by the Sheriff he has to make various appointments. Those within his own office may not, possibly, be sold, however lucrative they may be. O'Brien being subject to the dictation of the "Ring," who gave him his nomination, and carried his election, in all probability the cierks, assistants, and deputies are the appointees of this precious body. There is, however, one office which has been invariably sold, at least by his immediate predecessors, at a bonus of from \$15,0.0 to \$25,000, namely, the keepership of Ludlow-st. Prison. Mr. Moore, the keeper of this prison under Mr. Kelly, is said to have paid \$15,000 to that Sheriff. When O'Brien came into office, it is also said that Moore offered him \$25,000 for the place. It was, however, given to "Joe" Tracy of the Nineteenth Ward, and what he paid is not known; the "Ring" coming in to obtain for him the preference. It is, however, said that he paid \$15,000 for it; and the place is worth far more, as money can be coined there. For mere board debtors pay an average of \$15 to \$20 a week, which realizes a profit of cent per cent. Then there is the milk, meat, bread, and grocery contracts, on which a large percentage is made, doubtless mutually profitable to both contracting parties. But what is a little El Dorado to the keeper is the supply of the wines, liquors, cigars, a billiard table, and other luxuries, which the creditor who can at all afford them will have; and it is a principle in human nature that if a man will drink and play and enjoy other luxuries when moving abroad, he will double his allowance of such luxuries when confined within the walls of a prison to keep himself from painful reflections. Ludlow-st. Prison, from year's end to year's end is full, there being about 500 debtors there throughout the year. In addition to the other fees, for debtors undergo bleeding, each on entering and leaving pays a fee of \$1, "going out and coming in." So that the keeper can well afford to pay \$15,000 to \$20,000 for the situation, and make a fortune into the bar gain. This sum goes directly into the pocket of the

THE COURT CALENDARS.

This source of the Sheriff's income is a great item. and often altogether overlooked in calculating the Sheviff's income. On an average, there are at least 15,600 names of suits on the three calendars of the Supreme Court, Superior Court, and Common Pleas. On each suit named therein the Sheriff is paid 50c., often collected from both plaintiff and defendant. This fee is for summoning jurous Take, for instance, the month of January of the present ear, which is generally a very low month in the number made up of remanets from the previous year. Supreme Court, 4,250; Superior Court, 256; Common Pleas, 1,080— 6,286. At 50 cents each, \$3,146.

But the average throughout the year would give for each mouth 15,000 names of suffs, which would yield \$5,500 and which being multiplied by nine, would give \$58,500 a year into the Sherin's office.

The other sources of income are attachments against

property, orders of arrest, executions and sales, and ball

ATTACHMENTS, ORDERS OF ARREST, &C., against property, where the debtor is supposed to b about to defraud his creditors, is not a very large source of income, but it is believed to amount to \$4,00) a year. Orders of arrest amount to about the same, the fee in each being \$1.75; which would according to the closest calculation, amount to about \$8,000 a year.

EXECUTIONS AND SALES.

These are the grand source of income in the Sheriff's department, and throw all the others into the shade. The fees realized on sales it is impossible to calculate. Some times thousands a day, sometimes thousands a week; some months tens of thousands are made by fees on executions and sales. On the proceeds of every sale the Sheriff charges 10 per cent; the Sheriff's auctioneer five per cent; poundage (a fictitious item, but charged), per cent; the keeping \$10 a day for one man, who receives \$2 a day, the balance going to the Sheriff; with half a dozen tother charges, which we cannot stop to enumerate, charged on the amount realized; three-fourths of which go into the Sheriff's pocket. In fact, as the lawyers say, the charges are anything that the Sheriff may choose to make, and they are never questioned. One instance may be incidentally referred to. Property was levied upon for a debt of \$200; the goods seized did not amount to more than \$160; when the Sheriff's bill was furnished his fees alone amounted to \$70-that is to collect \$200! On this subject it may be remarked in passing, that the law does not give the Sheriff authority to appoint an anctioneer to sell goods seized under execution, he being obliged to do this bim. self as a part of his official duty, without charging any fee-

THE BAIL BOND SWINDLE. But of all the swindles connected with the Sheriff's department there is one which stands out with peculiar prominence, because in this case we are able to find data. When a deptor is bailed the law provides that he shall be charged a fee of \$2 50, but Mr. O'Brien never charges less than \$11 75. Bail can always be procured in the Sheriff department for any man who can pay for it, and it some times costs him as much as \$150. This, however, is a matter of contract between the debter or prisoner and the Sheriff's office, but it is a most dishonest use of the duties of the office, turning it into a bail brokerage. It yields, however, thousands of dollars into the department or those who are dependent upon is.

Thus we may roughly calculate the sources of incom of the Sheriff's office : Bonus on the Ludlow-st, prison keepership...

Calendars.

Executions and sales.
Overcharge on ball bonds.
On keeping of levied goods, orders of arrests,
attachments, lodgment of execution before levy, &c., &c. \$200,000

Every lawyer whom the writer consulted, civing his wn individual experience, has not hesitated to concur in the above estimates as a fair approximation to the actual amounts received in the Sheriff's ained by real offices, bogus offices, and swindling overcharges in every item of account furnished from the Sheriff's department. There is not a lawyer the writer spoke to on this subject, and they are among the men who have the largest mercantile practice in the city, and have most to do with the Sheriff's office, in regard to arrests for debt, &c., that hesitated to pronounce the Sheriff's office as "simply infamous," in the fees it charges the public. But they said, "What can the lawyers do !" If the lawyer does not come down and yield to whatever charge the Sheriff may choose to make on his client, he is a marked man. When next he goes with an execution to be levied, the Sheriff may delay the levy until the debtor makes away with his property, and

his client and himself thereby sacrificed.

lawyer presents ball, the Sheriff, if the lawyer be com-

pliant as to charges, may let him off without much

trouble : but if he be not compliant, the Sheriff can put